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GROUP 1700

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants :Wolfgang RUF et al.

Group Art Unit:1731

Appln. No. :09/978,041

Examiner: K. Hastings

Filed :October 17, 2001

For :LAMELLA OF A HEADBOX OF A PAPER, CARDBOARD, OR TISSUE
MACHINE

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION UNDER 37
C.F.R. § 1.97(d)**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. sections 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98,

Applicants submit the following documents for the Examiner's consideration.

Since this Statement is being submitted after the mailing of the final rejection, Applicants submit herewith the requisite fee of \$180.00 set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

Applicants submit herewith a copy of a European Search Report dated March 18, 2003 conducted in European Patent Application No. 01123705.4-1256-, which is a counterpart of the above-captioned application. In particular, the European Examiner cited:

- (1) European Patent Application No. 0 147 350, published July 3, 1985, as an "X" category document (i.e. a document that calls into question of the novelty or inventive step

when considered alone) with regard to claims 1-10, 12, and 14-16 of the European Application, and as a “Y” category document (i.e. a document that calls into question the inventive step when considered with another document from this category) with regard to claims 11 and 13 of the European Application. In particular, the Examiner noted page 5, line 10 - page 9, line 3, and the figures as relevant to the above-noted claims of the European Application. For the Examiner’s convenience, Applicants note that U.S. Patent No. 4,617,091, issued to Rodal et al. October 14, 1986, is identified by the annex to the Search Report as a U.S. Patent family member of the above-cited document. Applicants further note that, as this U.S. family member was previously cited by the Examiner in an Office Action dated July 2, 2002, no copy is submitted herewith;

- (2) International Patent Application No. WO 98/51856, published November 19, 1998, as an “X” category document. In particular, the Examiner noted page 2, line 1 - page 3, line 27, and the figures as relevant to claims 1 and 12 of the European application;
- (3) German Patent Application No. 43 29 810 A1, published June 23, 1994, as a “D” category document (i.e. a document discussed in the present application), and as a “Y” category document. In particular, the Examiner noted column 2, line 52 - line 59, and figure 9 as relevant to claim 11 of the European application. Applicants note that, as this document was previously cited in an Information Disclosure Statement filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office January 22, 2002, no copy is submitted herewith. For the Examiner’s convenience, Applicants note that U.S. Patent No. 5,639,352, issued to Ruf et al. June 17, 1997, is identified by the annex to the Search Report as a U.S. Patent family member of the

above-cited document. Applicants further note that, as this U.S. family member was previously cited in an Information Disclosure Statement filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office January 22, 2002, no copy is submitted herewith; and

(4) European Patent Application No. 0 681 057 A2, published November 8, 1995, as a "D" category document and as a "Y" category document. In particular, the Examiner noted the entire document as relevant to claim 13 of the European application. Applicants note that, as this document was previously cited in an Information Disclosure Statement filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office January 22, 2002, no copy is submitted herewith. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants submit herewith a copy of U.S. Patent No. 5,849,159, issued to Heinzmann et al. December 15, 1998, which is identified by the annex to the Search Report as a U.S. Patent family member of the above-cited document.

Moreover, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e), the undersigned hereby states that as items (1) and (2) of information contained in this information disclosure statement were first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

Of course, this statement does not apply to information that has previously been cited by Applicants or the Examiner in the present application as that information is already of record and no certification is necessary. Moreover, the above certification does not apply to any English language family members submitted herewith for the convenience of the Examiner.

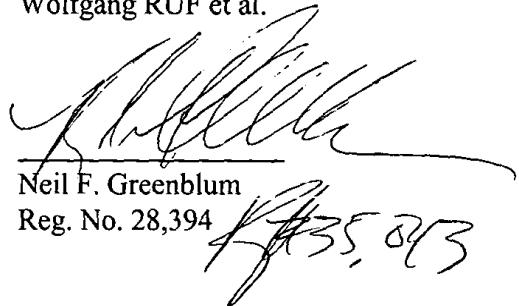
Moreover, if a check including the above-noted amount is not attached, the Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of this and/or any additional fees associated with this

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communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19 - 0089.

Should there be any questions or comments regarding this matter, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (703) 716-1191.

Respectfully submitted,
Wolfgang RUF et al.


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FFB35.873

April 17, 2003
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